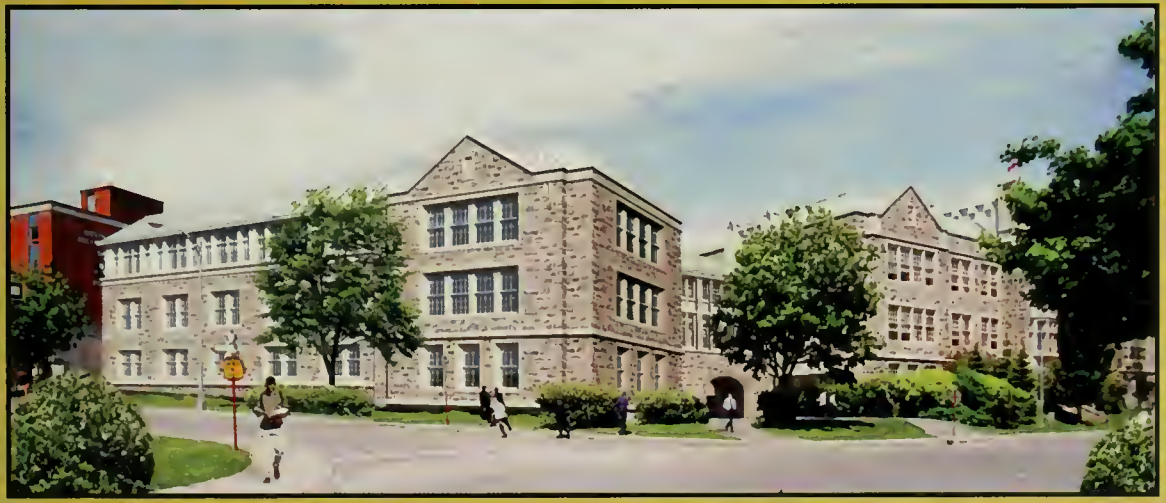
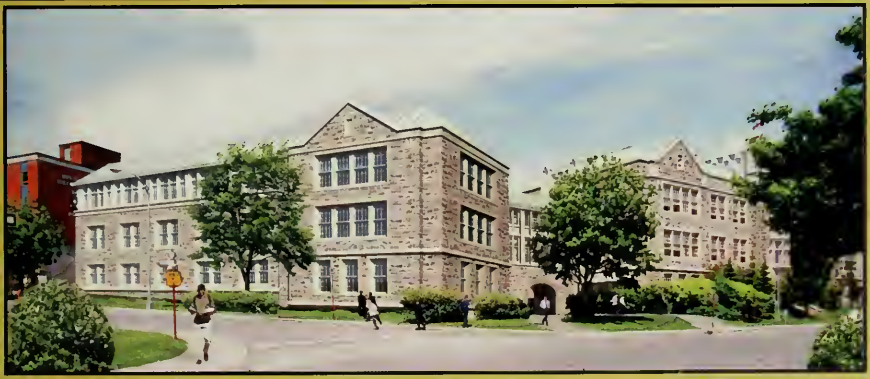
Making Room for the Future



SELWYN HOUSE

VERITAS

Making Room for the Future



SELWYN HOUSE

VERITAS

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Selwyn House School Board of Directors

Celebration 2003. It has a very nice ring to it. This Founder's Day we celebrate the completion of construction of the magnificent new Speirs Building and of Phase One of the renovation of the Lucas Building. Already we are enjoying the benefits that this project contributes to the strength of the School.

Each generation is called upon to invest in the School for future generations. This was recognized when we re-located from the Lucas School on Crescent Street (1908-1912) to Mackay Street (1912-1929), from there to Redpath Street (1929-1961), then to Westmount High School on Côte St. Antoine (1961-present), our current location, and with the addition of the Macaulay Building (1985).

Our generation has accepted that responsibility and risen to the latest challenge. The Speirs Building is a source of pride for everyone who has contributed to its success.

Within two years, the entire campus will be renewed and will have been done in a comprehensive way with the thoughtful process and commitment of the architectural team, the Selwyn House Board of Directors, the Campaign Cabinet and the faculty and staff who work here day in and day out offering the best education a school can give.

I thank the Capital Campaign Cabinet and all members of our community for your commitment to the building project, to the "Making Room for the Future" campaign, and for your trust in Selwyn House to make the decisions which will benefit our school community for years to come.

Michael Goldbloom '69
Chair, Board of Directors, Selwyn House School

HEADMASTER'S MESSAGE

It is with great pride that we welcome all Selwyn House School constituents to the inauguration of the Speirs Building, named for the fourth Headmaster of the School. I have been astounded by the extraordinary investment that has been made to ensure the success of the building and renovation project which will secure a firm foundation for the future of the School. For those of us who work and learn here it has been encouraging to witness the confidence you have in the future of education at Selwyn House. Our commitment is never to betray that trust or compromise that confidence.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Selwyn House, I would like to thank Michael Goldbloom, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and the many volunteers who have made the "Making Room for the Future"campaign such a rewarding experience and tremendous success.

Will Mitchell,
Headmaster, Selwyn House School

CO-CHAIRS' MESSAGE

PHASE I 1999-2002

Making Room for the Future Campaign

Francesco Bellini

Congratulations to the Selwyn House School community on this very special inauguration day. Not only does the completion of the Speirs Building mark a new chapter for the history books of Selwyn House School, it creates something very special for the city of Montreal. The need for Montreal to have thriving institutions, whether they be in medicine, education or the arts, is vital to the future of the city. This project helps put Selwyn House among Montreal's world-class institutions and will allow it to grow and adapt to the needs of future generations of deserving students.

We would like to thank the Capital Campaign Cabinet and the many donors who are responsible for this great accomplishment.

André Desmarais '73, Martha Hallward,
Francesco Bellini, Michael Graff

André Desmarais '73

Michael Graff

Martha Hallward

CO-CHAIRS' MESSAGE

PHASE II 2002-2005

Making Room for the Future Campaign

It is impressive to see the Speirs Building and the long list of those who are responsible for its completion. The renovations in the Lucas Building are equally impressive and are long overdue. We look now to completing the renovations and are excited by the prospect that, in two years time, we will have accomplished the entire project and will have paid for it quickly. The School will have a solid foundation enabling it to move forward, build endowment and develop inspiring programmes for the future.

The Lucas Campaign Committee still has a big task ahead, but we are energized by the support we are receiving from donors to get the job done. Thank you to all who are part of this process, especially the donors who have made this possible.

John Hallward '78, Filip Papich '77, Mark L. Smith

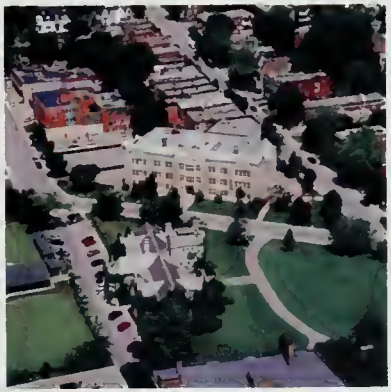
Filip Papich '77

John Hallward

Mark L. Smith

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SAFETY
FIRST



From a very deep hole in the ground, the Speirs Building has emerged and now stands before us -- a state of the art achievement of which the Selwyn House community should be very proud. Hundreds of people have helped to realize this important accomplishment and we wish to acknowledge their contribution. Thank you!

Donors to the "Making Room for the Future" campaign
The Capital Campaign Cabinet
The Lucas Campaign Committee
Veritas Fund Trustees
Lucas Fund Trustees
The Fundraising Committee
The Marketing Committee
The Selwyn House School Board of Directors
The Old Boys' Association
The Parent Volunteer Association
The Celebration Committee
Alumni, parents, students and friends of Selwyn House
Selwyn House School faculty and staff
Our neighbours
Westmount City and Borough Councillors
Our architects (Architem) and general contractor (Cégerco)

FOUNDER'S DAY 2003

Selwyn House Turns 95

Founder's Day is a time of celebration for the entire Selwyn House community. It commemorates the founding of the School and honours the Speirs Medal recipient. It is therefore fitting that this year we incorporate the inauguration of the newly built Speirs Building.

The Speirs Medal

The Speirs Medal is presented each year at Founder's Day to the person whom the Board of Directors of the School feels has made a significant contribution to the Selwyn House community over the years. The medal is named after Dr. Robert Speirs, Headmaster of Selwyn House School from 1945-1971. This year it is presented to Virginia Ferguson, head librarian at Selwyn House for 27 years.

Past Speirs Medal Recipients

2002
Mr. Craig Shannon '71

2001
Mr. Ian Burgess

2000
Mrs. Nancy Pitfield

1999
Dr. Byron W. Harker

1998
Mr. Alain Weber

1997
Mr. James Iversen

1996
Dr. Victor Goldbloom '37
& Mrs. Sheila Goldbloom

1995
Mr. Hugh H. Norsworthy '36

1994
Mr. Alexis Troubetzkoy

1993
Mr. Conrad F. Harrington '26

1992
Mr. Timothy R. Carsley '52

1991
Mrs. Patricia Marsh

1990
Mr. Robert C. Paterson '41

1989
Mrs. Patricia Marsh

1988
Mr. Edward M. Ballon '39

1987
Mrs. Christian I. Markland Borchand

1986
Mr. William Hingston Daly '52

1985
Mr. Edgar Moodey

1984
Mr. F. Gordon Phillips

1983
Mr. David M. Culver '39

1982
Hon. F. Miller Hyde '17

DR. ROBERT A. SPEIRS

The newest addition to the Selwyn House campus, the Speirs Building, is named after Dr. Robert A. Speirs, whose tenure as Headmaster of Selwyn House School from 1945-1971 had a profound shape on the development of the School we know today.

Dr. Speirs was born in Scotland and educated at Edinburgh and Columbia universities. He worked as an educator in Scotland before coming to Canada. For nine years, Speirs headed the English department at Lower Canada College, later becoming Assistant Headmaster. In 1945, following the unexpected death of Selwyn House's owner Geoffrey Wanstall, Dr. Speirs was hired to replace him.

With an optimistic outlook for the future of Selwyn House, Dr. Speirs began his 26-year term as Headmaster in the summer of 1945. It was during this time that the School we know today began to take shape. Many changes to the function of the School and the curriculum were implemented resulting in standard uniforms, longer days, regular assemblies, special guest speakers, public speaking, a prefectorial and house system as well as weekly tests and regular assessments of progress. Grades 10 and 11 were added so that a boy could stay at the School for his complete elementary and secondary school education.

Other traditions such as dramatic performances and choral work were instilled and continue to this day. It is from the beginning of his term as Headmaster that the use of the school hymn is dated, inspired by the school's motto "Veritas", with lyrics by Dr. Speirs himself.

Under the direction of Dr. Speirs, the School saw a period of rapid change in the conditions of the world and in the demands made on education. The importance and scope of education vastly expanded, teaching methods changed to accommodate this expansion and the attitudes and relationships between pupil, teacher and family were enriched.

Dr. Speirs has been described as a man of personal presence, integrity and intensity. He was respected by all, had the conviction of his ideas and was an excellent communicator. He was stern, yet fair, and a strong leader. The new Speirs Building is a fitting dedication to an important individual in Selwyn House School history.

Lucas School 1911

Celebrating the past...
Making room for the future

Algernon Lucas

Selwyn House has come a long way since Algernon Lucas was entrusted with the education of seven young boys in 1908. Ninety-five years later, Mr. Lucas would be proud to know that his original school has not only survived, but has matured to become a widely respected independent boys' school well known for academic excellence within a setting that encourages fair play, tolerance and responsibility.

Mr. Colin Macaulay (1912-1929)

1912

By 1912, Lucas School had outgrown its modest beginnings and had moved to a larger private house on Mackay Street. Mr. Lucas had transferred ownership of the School to a fellow Cambridge classmate, Mr. Colin Macaulay. Mr. Macaulay named the School after his alma mater, Selwyn College. In 1916, Algernon Lucas died from a sniper's bullet while convalescing in hospital in Ireland during the First World War.

Selwyn House School Mackay Street

1920

By 1920, Selwyn House had again outgrown its premises and was divided into a senior section on Mackay Street with the junior section at Mr. Macaulay's residence nearby on Sherbrooke Street. In 1926, Mr. Geoffrey Wanstall was appointed head of the senior school, while Mr. Macaulay remained in charge of the junior section. In 1929, Mr. Macaulay retired to England, and Mr. Wanstall became proprietor.

Mr. Algernon Lucas (1908-1912)

1908

Mr. Algernon Lucas came to Canada from the U.K. And taught for a short time in Brockville, Ontario before seeking a career in Montreal. At this time, the English elite in Montreal were "deploring the lack of a suitable preparatory school" in the neighbourhood. A graduate of Selwyn College at Cambridge University, Mr. Lucas founded Lucas School in a small flat on Crescent Street, with an initial enrolment of seven young boys.

1930

Mr. Wanstall's first step as Headmaster was to acquire larger premises on Redpath Street, which were expanded to include a proper library, a gymnasium, a dining room, and an assembly hall. By this time, the School had developed a character of its own. Its aim was to provide a solid grounding in basic subjects and to equip boys for the boarding schools from which they might proceed to university. Games were a necessary part of the schedule, with cricket and soccer in the summer and hockey and skiing in the winter.

Mr. Geoffrey Wanstall (1929-1945)

Redpath Street

1945

Mr. Wanstall died unexpectedly in 1945, leaving the school facing its demise. Since Mr. Wanstall was without a will, and his heirs were in Europe, cut off by the war, officialdom would have closed the School and sold its assets. However, a determined group of concerned parents and Old Boys, led by the Hon. Miller Hyde '17, formed a non-profit organization, the Selwyn House Association. Through a bond issue, they purchased the School from the Wanstall estate. The Association persuaded the Assistant Headmaster of Lower Canada College, Mr. Robert Speirs, to replace Mr. Wanstall. The School thus embarked on a remarkable transition.

The Association appointed their first Board of Directors, under Mr. Miller Hyde's chairmanship, which replaced the former autocracy of the headmaster. The Board's first priority was to make the premises more suitable. With limited funds, they were able to expand the library, modify the classrooms, extend the existing building to include a gymnasium, dining room and assembly hall, and construct a small science laboratory. The sports programme was expanded to allow matches with other schools, and internal competition was fostered by a house system.

1953

In 1953, the Old Boys' Association was formed, initially as a social group. However, over the years it has flourished, with chapters in Montreal, Toronto, Boston, New York and London, England.

1961

Selwyn House moved to its present site at 95 Côte St. Antoine when Westmount High School moved to a new site and put its old premises on the market. The move led to the School expanding its programme to include high school matriculation.

Over several years, many physical changes were made to accommodate a growing student body, including a new dining room and kitchen, reconstructed science labs, new locker rooms, an expanded gymnasium, and the addition of two new wings. Even part of the superintendent's house next door was converted to classroom space.

Mr. Robert Speirs (1945-1971)

1971

In 1971, health compelled Dr. Speirs to retire. For the first time, a headmaster who was not from the United Kingdom was appointed -- Mr. Alexis Troubetzkoy. After Dr. Spiers' tenure of 26 years, Mr. Troubetzkoy quickly implemented changes, some of which have had a lasting impact. He changed the traditional "forms" into the more usual "grades" and introduced additional sports and functions. His most notable achievements were the institution of Founder's Day, the impressive expansion of the library and its facilities, and the introduction of French immersion classes in Grade 6 to meet changing conditions in the province.

Mr. Alexis Troubetzkoy (1971-1981)

1981

After ten years, Mr. Troubetzkoy was appointed Headmaster of Appleby College. He was replaced by Mr. Robert Manion for the next few years.

1985

In January 1985, Mr. William Mitchell became Headmaster. The steady growth of the School and the demands for added facilities reached a point at which no further expansion of the existing premises was possible. When St. Andrew's United Church on the adjoining block closed in 1985, Selwyn House purchased the property. Renovations included an additional gymnasium, as well as offices and classrooms. The decision was then made to name the existing building after Mr. Lucas and the converted church after Mr. Macaulay, the School's first two headmasters. Within the Lucas and Macaulay buildings, the School was better able to fulfill the goals it had set for itself.

1993

It was becoming apparent that potential parents were very much interested in choosing a school that offered a full Kindergarten to Grade 11 experience. It was also beneficial to Selwyn House to have students enter at the earliest grade possible. Therefore, the School decided to fill that void by opening its first Kindergarten classroom (La Maternelle) to 15 five-year-olds. Two years later, a second class was added, allowing for a total of 30 Kindergarten students.

Mr. William Mitchell (1981-present)

As the School continued to grow, and as the variety and depth of the programmes required more facilities, there was once again a pressing need for more space.

1999

Selwyn House began an ambitious capital campaign to expand and modernize its facilities and to build an endowment for scholarships and financial aid. The prime objective of the "Making Room for the Future" capital campaign was the creation of and renovation of physical facilities to support the quality of teaching for which the School is known. The new construction and subsequent renovations were designed to improve the quality of education without increasing enrolment.

The following priorities were identified as essential to the School's future:

- Improved teaching spaces - larger, more flexible classrooms, laboratories and resource centres
- An easily accessible library/learning centre that would be prominent in the School
- A larger, centrally located dining room that would also serve as an auditorium
- Endowment

To accomplish this, an ambitious construction and renovation project was conceived that would increase the School's indoor space by 38%.

2002

The first phase of the project was the construction of a new building to house a state-of-the-art library and learning centre, an agora, new classrooms, computer labs, a full-size gymnasium complete with bleachers, a climbing wall, team lockers and changing rooms, and administrative offices. A tunnel running beneath Stanton Street to connect the new Speirs Building to the Macaulay Building was created, thus maximizing safety for the students while minimizing pedestrian traffic. This phase was completed in September 2003.

2003

A new campaign, the Lucas Campaign, was launched to raise additional funds to pay for renovations of the 67-year old Lucas building, bringing the total campaign to $14.8 million.

To minimize the disruption of daily academic life, these renovations were scheduled to take place in three phases during three consecutive summers.

The first phase, now complete, was the conversion of the dining hall into a new Middle School science lab, reception area, and admission offices. The dining room was relocated to the former Lucas gym, now named Coristine Hall, allowing for two lunch sittings instead of three.

2004

The second phase of renovations will take place in the summer of 2004 and will focus on the renovation of the second and third floors of the Lucas Building. Existing classrooms will be enlarged and new teaching areas will be created. At this time ventilation in the Macaulay Building will also be improved.

2005

The third and final phase, in the summer of 2005, will consist of renovating the kitchen and the senior science labs, as well as further renovation of Coristine Hall to create an auditorium.

Now home to 570 boys from K-11, Selwyn House is approaching its centennial year in 2008. The School boasts remarkable achievements in academics, athletics, public speaking and debating, music and art. The current building campaign ensures that Selwyn students and staff will be supported in their pursuit of excellence.

THE SPEIRS BUILDING

General Features

The new Speirs Building, with its elegant stone façade, blends new and old seamlessly on the Selwyn House campus. A beautiful archway leads into the playground behind the building. Inside, the wonderful use of natural light permeates this air-conditioned building. Modern classrooms and special features ensure that Selwyn House students and staff will be supported by exceptional facilities.

First Floor Features

- The agora -- a bright, modern, multi-purpose, technologically equipped meeting space for teaching and for small gatherings
- An elevator for the disabled or distribution of heavy boxes to the library or to the Argyle Shop
- A large classroom with SMARTboard and proxima projector
- The advancement and business offices are centralized in a spacious and bright area.

"The agora will be a great place to do storytelling with the Elementary boys!"
Roman Pylat, Grade 4 & 5 English

On The Second Floor

- The Senior Reference Room houses all resource and reference material, and is equipped with laptop desks.
- A seminar room adjoins the reference room and is complete with a SMARTboard and proxima projector. This space is flexible and can be used as a classroom or as a meeting space.
- Two large computer labs are equipped with SMARTboards, proxima projectors and the latest technology.

"This classroom is going to be the model for the School...It is going to fundamentally change the way we do things."
Bill Bedard, Computer Science Department

SUSTAINING OUR EXCELLENCE

On The Third Floor

- The Wanstall Library is a wonderful architectural space full of light with a beautifully designed vaulted ceiling.
- The Junior Library area is decorated with colourful stools representing the school colours and shelving appropriate for younger students.
- The Senior Reading Room is equipped with an electric fireplace, dedicated to former librarian Virginia Ferguson, donated by library volunteers and Selwyn House staff.
- The reading areas overlook neighbouring buildings and study carrels create a quiet spot for working.

"A computer centre right downstairs from the library makes a lot of sense ... students can access library resources and computer lab resources easily."
Brenda Rilling, Head, Computer Science Department

At The Tunnel Level

- An underground tunnel joins the Speirs and Macaulay buildings beneath Stanton Street.
- Students have access to lockers in a bright corridor.
- Students have modern locker rooms/change rooms for visiting teams.

On The Lower Level

- The Speirs Gym is two storeys high and one and a half times the size of a standard gym. It can be divided into two separate teaching areas.
- The gym has a climbing wall, golf net, electronic scoreboards, rows of folding bleacher seats for fans, and a state-of-the-art sound system.
- There is ample equipment storage space.
- Near the gym, the Argyle Shop is in a larger space, more easily accessible to parents, close to the elevator and storage.

Lucas Renovations

The Lucas Building has already undergone significant renovation this year with phases II and III due for completion over the next two summers. The dining room has been moved to the Lucas gym, allowing students to eat in more spacious surroundings. A cafeteria allows students more variety, and students eat in two sittings rather than three. Two lunches allows for more flexibility in the School's daily schedule. Other improvements include:

- A modernized reception area
- Admission offices at street level
- A Middle School science lab equipped with a SMARTboard and proxima projector
- A robotics office adjoining the physics lab

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Selwyn House, an independent boys' school, provides students with an education of exceptional depth and scope.

The school fosters academic excellence through an enriched curriculum, the development of critical and creative thinking, and the ability to communicate ideas well. We strive to instill in our students an intellectual curiosity and a lifelong commitment to learning.

Dedicated, energetic staff teach our courses, coach our teams, supervise our activities, and communicate openly and regularly with parents. Our programmes challenge boys mentally and physically, while stressing a respect for honesty and fair play, and a tolerance of the ideas of others.

Selwyn House supports its students and staff, and rewards their efforts as well as their achievements. Our community is one in which students can build confidence and self-discipline, appreciate their responsibilities to others and themselves, and find joy in learning.

Our goals are that students will acquire positive attitudes to scholarship and recreation, learn clarity of thinking and self-expression, and guide themselves with a high degree of personal integrity.

SELWYN HOUSE

VERITAS

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